

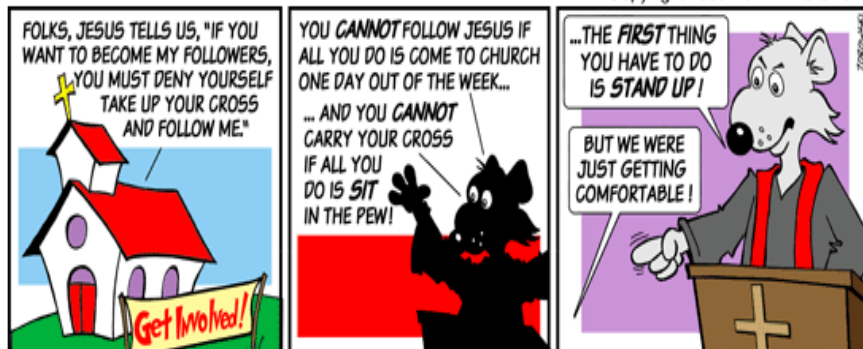
7-10). Therefore he looks for that blessed hope. He has peace with God through Jesus Christ. Guilt, the cause of fear, is taken away. He believes that the Judge is his friend, therefore he looks forward with a comfortable expectation. He feels that his present state is not his rest; for though the guilt of sin is taken out of his conscience, and the love and power of it out of his heart; he painfully feels that sin yet dwelleth in him; and therefore longs for the coming of Christ, that He may totally destroy it. The hope he has, is a blessed hope, because the things hoped for are inestimable in value, eternal in duration, and certain to the man who looks for them in faith and hope. "We that are in this tabernacle, (of flesh and blood) do groan, being burdened" (2 Cor. 5:4), with sin, affliction, and temptation; but at the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:4).

Ichabod Spencer - A short tract dated 1800.

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Sounding the Trumpet

October - December 2009



Sounding the Trumpet

Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
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This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines.

God placed the most powerful thing in the world God in our hands in Eden. The power of choice!!! The gates of Hell itself cannot prevail against our choice (Matthew 16:18; Romans 8:37-39). In a very real sense Heaven cannot prevail over that choice!!! It is choice that hurtles us toward self-gratification, self-destruction or the abundant life in Jesus Christ. That powerful weapon is given to each of us every day. It is the first thing we use when we arise each morning and the last thing we use when we pillow our head at night. And that power of choice is the only thing that will move us toward the abundant life in Christ.

We must ever be aware of the choices we make and the power of God through his Spirit that will enable each of us to make the right choices. Which direction are our choices taking us? Adam could have never imagined the direction his choice would lead. As we look back we must understand that we will never be all wise in making our decisions but we can listen to God.

James R. Davis

Looking for that Blessed Hope

Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." This is the happy privilege of the believer in Jesus, to be looking for the second appearance of his Lord. Jesus has promised that He will come again; that He will "come quickly" (Rev. 22:20). He has declared that His coming will be sudden, like that of "a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2). The believer is a man who is expecting it, waiting for it, and preparing to welcome it. He knows that though "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;" yet that another end of His coming is, that He may "be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe" (2 Thess. 1:

Human nature is endowed with curiosity. It is always searching, probing, and discovering. This curiosity implanted by God makes it possible for us to discover our world and have dominion over it. This curiosity is a wonderful thing if channelled in the right direction. But when it is directed in the wrong direction it becomes extremely self-destructive. We live in an age when we ask the question: "How far is too far?" "How much is too much?" "When does 'no' mean 'NO'?" These questions arise in areas of science, law, life and human relations. Curiosity easily becomes exploitation for self-gratification.

How many times have we craved to turn the clock back to an age of innocence? The further we go the tougher the decisions. The choices made move us in one direction or the other. At times the movement is in such small increments that movement is not perceptible. The result may not be known until decades later. After we discover the movement we wish "we didn't know now, what we didn't know then."

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The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
The Editor, Gary J. Hall
73 Colebrooke Road
Liverpool
L17 7BZ

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"Be assured, if you walk
 with Him and look to Him,
 and expect help from Him,
 He will never fail you"

George Muller



General Enquiries:

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries, Hunslet Nazarene Church,
 Lupton Street, Hunslet, LS10 2QR
 Enquiries: administrator@femonline.co.uk
 Editor: editor@femonline.co.uk
 Principal: principal@femonline.co.uk

When Jesus stood up to Speak

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

From world governments to the man on the street, everyone is striving to gain power and authority. Every dictator has sought after that ultimate power to rule over mankind. We saw it in Nebuchadnezzar, Caesar, and Hitler, and one day will be manifest for the final time in the Antichrist. No man, regardless of his humility or humanitarianism, can be trusted with ultimate power and authority. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men" (Baron Acton). But the Lord Jesus Christ exercised such absolute power with perfect holiness and righteousness.

“And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:21-22).

The synagogue was the place where the experts met to teach others about how they ought to be living their lives. The Rabbis and Scribes were considered to be the authority on all things pertaining to God's word, that is, until Jesus stood up to speak. His word was fresh, powerful and awe-inspiring. The Rabbis pointed their listeners to other well-known Jewish commentators, but Jesus brought them directly to God. They spoke about the authorities, but Jesus spoke with authority. Nothing was boring or mundane that Sabbath Day, for the people sensed the absolute authority of the Lord. He taught what Scripture actually said. There is

you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5.)

What did Adam and Eve see when their eyes were opened? Satan. Good. Evil. Disillusionment. Guilt. Alienation. Death. Finality. Aging. Fear. Hunger. Nakedness. Shame. Lusts. Perversion. Helplessness. Pain. Thorns. Toil. Sweat. Tears. Hurt. Anger. Suspicion. Division. Deceit. Vanity. Foolishness. Wickedness. Pride. Loss!!! Power of Choice!

When I think of Eden, I have several questions. How long did the age of innocence last? What was it like to talk to God, one on one, in person? What was it like to work for a purpose without having to worry about making a living? What was it like not to age? What is it like to have no need of hospitals, policemen, or funeral homes? Why did Adam and Eve make the choice to eat of the forbidden? Did they not know that paradise could not be improved? What would it take to satisfy human nature? When would enough be enough?

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Lord.” He had joined himself to idol worshippers so it was inevitable that he went from the presence of the Lord. Paul reminds us, “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?.” [2 Cor. 6:24,26].

It is so unwise as well as against the purpose of God for a Christian to marry a non-Christian. [Someone has said “If you marry a child of the devil you are sure to have trouble with your father-in-law”]. Maybe we should also be very careful not to go into partnership with a non-Christian in anything because their standards will not be our standards especially if we are walking with God.

You possess the Greatest Power in the World

What do we think when we think of Eden? God. Intimacy. Goodness. Tranquillity. Untainted. Guiltless. Purity. Virtue. Harmlessness. Life. Immortality. Health. Youthfulness. Abundance. Simplicity. Unsophisticated. Inoffensive. Painless. Tearless. Safety. Security. Peace. Harmony. Understanding. Joy. Nakedness. Innocence. Openness. Sexuality. Fruitfulness. Morality. Incorruption. Guileless. Priceless. Confidence. Freedom. Choice. A place only found in our dreams.

"Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed." (Genesis 2:8.) "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." (Genesis 1:31.) "And the LORD God commanded the man, "you are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:16,17.) Satan said, "You will not surely die . . . For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and

no better thing to do than that.

“And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him” (Mark 1:23-26).

Right there in the synagogue was a demon-possessed man, who may have attended the service for many years, but no one had the power to set him free, that is, until Jesus stood up to speak. The demons never declared the Rabbis and Scribes to be holy men sent from God, but they recognised who Jesus was immediately. They also knew that He had absolute authority to cast them out and send them to Hell. They knew that He had come to earth to destroy Satan and his power over mankind. **“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil”** (1 John 3:8). Jesus’ was in the business setting people free. **“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ... If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”** (John 8:32, 36). None of the religious leaders had the authority to deliver people from Satan, but Jesus did.

“And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee” (Mark 1:27-28).

The people knew that Jesus was different than the Rabbis and Scribes. They had never been so enthusiastic about any Sabbath Day teacher, but that all changed when Jesus

stood up to speak. From that moment they wanted to tell their friends, family members and neighbours about the Lord Jesus Christ. If only believers would do the same today! We too have experienced deliverance from the clutches of Satan. Jesus has changed our lives completely through His blood. Can we not share this good news with others? People need to know about the Lord, and it is our responsibility to tell them. **“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”** (Romans 10:14-15).

“But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him” (Mark 1:29-34).

The Rabbis, Scribes and people would normally go home for their Sabbath Day lunch and rest after synagogue, but not when Jesus stood up to speak. The Lord too could have gone away to relax, but instead He carried on doing what He was sent to do. He ministered to the sick and possessed well into the night. People were important to Jesus, and this is one reason why He differed from the religious leaders. **“Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch**

Jonah's home village to a foreign country. So it was a love for his own nation and anger towards this cruel nation that made him unwilling to go. He did not want to remember that in the will and way of God there is no option. God requires complete obedience to the opportunities He gives us. “unto Tarshish” This was part of ancient Spain. “..from the presence of the Lord...” Jonah of course knew the Psalms because we find that almost the whole of his prayer in Chapter 2; was made up of quotations from the book of Psalms. He seems however to have forgotten what is written in Psalm 139:7 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?” If he did remember it he chose to ignore the Scriptures. Do we not sometimes do the same? God tells us in His Word that a course of action is wrong and a certain friendship will not help us, yet we still go and do what we want. “and went down to Joppa;” You will notice that when we are going away from God we continually go down. any decisions and actions we take in disobedience to the word and will of God will take us on a downward path. The downward path is much easier to take because the upward path calls for energy and courage.

“.. found a ship going to Tarshish;.” The ship was easily found, and Satan will always make it easy for us to go down. Have you and I “found a ship going to Tarshish?” Have we lost the zeal and first love for the Lord and are finding other ways to occupy our time and fill our lives? Well, God will not let you go to Tarshish. So call on Him now, repent, tear up the ticket to Tarshish before its too late. “so he paid the fare thereof and went down into it.” Jonah did not only go down to Joppa but went down into the ship after paying the fare. If we don't tear up the ticket we will find that going away from God is always costly to us and it is we who will have to pay for it. It was going to be a very costly thing for God's servant to turn his back on God's way. “to go with them unto Tarshish, from the presence of the

was the method God chose to make man, that is, he was moulded from the dust of the Earth.

Revelation 4v11; “Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Relating this back to the Blind man, Jesus knew He had to ‘create’ sight. For this man’s sight had never been there. Jesus anoints his eyes with the clay made from earth and saliva; “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.” The works of God had been manifested in this man’s life. The Pharisees could not understand it, the disciples must have marveled at it. For us, we have a permanent written record in the Bible of the miracle that occurred. The man that had been born blind, had been born for this very purpose; “That the works of God should be made manifest in him.”

Richard Hardy

Jonah

A commentary series by David Moody

V 3. “.. Jonah rose up to flee” It was not fear of what might happen to him that made him rebel against the call of God and to reject the Divine commission. God said, “Go” and Jonah said, “No”. Why was that? Well, the real reason comes out later in the book. Jonah was a man of discernment, and he knew God’s character and that if the Ninevites repented God would forgive them.

Then God would use Assyria to bring judgement upon disobedient Israel. Jonah maybe thought if they did not repent then they would be destroyed and that would save Israel. In fact it was only about fifty years later after the events recorded in this book that the king of Assyria invaded the north of Israel. He deported many people and some out of

not the burdens with one of your fingers” (Luke 11:46)
... **“But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you”** (Luke 11:20).

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke with absolute authority and power. He still changes lives with His word today. The vicars and priests do not have the power to save souls, the Rabbis are as legalistic as the Pharisees were, the Imams are on the payroll of Satan, and most preachers are compromising and watering down God’s word. Can we not just do what Jesus said? **“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world”** (Matthew 28:18-20).

Gary J. Hall

Prayer is our Lifeline to God

Prayers unleash God's power so that He is able to work on our behalf. Prayer opens the channels of God's blessing. Prayer is how God accomplishes the things that He wants to see happen in our lives, and in the lives of others. Prayer opens new doors of opportunity for God to move in.

Reasons to pray:

That you can come to the Father with your problems anytime

1. That He is concerned about you.

2. That He loves you.
3. That He said that He would help you.
4. That He will see you through your problems.
5. That He has the power to solve your problems.
6. That you trust Him 100%

Why Trust God?

1. My God is right here all the time.
2. My God loves me unconditionally.
3. My God will listen to me.
4. He will help me.
5. He will hear me.
6. He will give me peace.
7. He will solve my problems.
8. He keeps his promises.

Ian Rowley

Jesus Creates Sight

John 9 ; 'And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying- Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, neither hath this man sinned or his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.'

Many things can be learnt from this short passage of scripture. Not only about the healing power and compassion of our Lord, but also about his divinity. The man in question was disabled. He had been blind from birth, and this is crucial to the interpretation. He was not blinded in any way, he had been in this condition all his life. He had never been able to see.

The disciples were inquisitive, asking who sinned, was it either him or his parents? They had mistakenly assumed sin had brought about this blindness. But no, the Lord replies; "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

What does Jesus mean when He says, "The works of God"? We know that He had compassion and wanted to heal the man. It's the way that He healed him that shows the real works of God.

No greater works have ever been done in all history, apart from the creation of the Heavens and the Earth. There has never been such an historical event of such divine power and creativity. The "works of God" became manifest for us to witness. We see the fingerprint of the Creator, and must surely show awe and reverence, as we marvel at His creation. Colossians 1v16; "All things were created by Him, and for Him."

So how would Jesus show these great works through this blind man? By anointing his eyes with mud (clay). The man had never seen, therefore Jesus had to create sight. Here we have to go right back to the creation Genesis account of how the first man Adam was created. Genesis 2v7; "And the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." We are but dust without the breath of life, and from the earth we have come. Adam was formed, molded from the earth. This is the actual truth of man's creation, we were made, we were brought into existence by God. This